

7th Financial Inclusion Conclave-Odisha

{A State Level Stakeholders' Meeting on Expanding Financial Inclusion & Women Entrepreneurships in Odisha}

Organized By: OSAFII & Member Organizations in Odisha

OSAFII:

Vision: Establish an Inclusive & Sustainable Financial Society

Mission:

To Create Enabling Environment for Financial Inclusion through Stakeholders' Engagements.

OSAFII operates as a member-based coordinating organization of various institutions that promote financial inclusion in Odisha by offering inclusive financial services to low income group of people. It was established as a Trust in the year 2016. Started initially by seven homegrown institutions with the financial support of SIDBI-PSIG and technical assistance of ACCESS-ASSIST, it has now got 28 members in Odisha. OSAFII works for strengthening coordination and synergy among various stakeholders for expanding financial inclusion and women entrepreneurship. It also helps in capacity building of members & stakeholders on various thematic areas including on responsible finance, client protection principles, SPM etc. OSAFII has also started taking up field projects. Supported by SIDBI, OSAFII implemented the WE-LEAD- 'Women Entrepreneurship-Livelihood Enhancement And Development (WE-LEAD) program, mainly to promote and strengthen 12,000 women entrepreneurs in 06 Districts, majorly in Aspirational Districts of Odisha. Graduating Clients from Microfinance to Microenterprise (MF to ME) has been one of the key purposes of the program.

1st FI Conclave: July'2017



Chief Guest: Shri. H.R. Khan,
Former Deputy Governor, RBI

Date: 6th February, 2026
(Friday)

Venue: Hotel VIVANTA
Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Background: The Financial inclusion (FI) landscape in the country has changed dramatically over the last few years. In India, the Govt, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), NABARD, SIDBI, Banks, and host of other stakeholders have been making their concerted efforts to expand financial inclusion especially among the poor and low-income groups of people. Pioneered by NABARD, the SHG-Bank Linkage program (SBLP) has been one of the most significant channels to expand financial inclusion and deliver financial services to women SHG members across the country. Over the years SBLP has made a tremendous progress, given its phenomenal growth and on-going evolution from a tool of social engineering to planned linkage program to become a vehicle for creation of livelihoods for women and their households across the country.

Financial Inclusion through SBLP in Odisha:

Financial inclusion is very relevant to the state like Odisha. With a view to cover large number of poor households into the fold of financial inclusion, the Govt of Odisha has taken a number of initiatives including promotion of SHGs & their Federations, providing financial and capacity building support to them. As reported, nearly 70 lakh women are being involved with over six lakhs SHGs in Odisha. The state has emphasized on micro enterprises "SHG to SME" mainly to promote and strengthen women entrepreneurship. The recently introduced 'Subhadra Yojana' with financial assistance has also been proved to be very supportive for the women members in the state. The SBLP has been one of the major Financial Inclusion initiatives, aiming at ensuring access to institutional credit by women SHG/JLG members, thereby promoting livelihoods at their household levels.

Financial Inclusion & Microfinance Channel:

With Financial Inclusion emerging as a major policy component in the country, microfinance through its need-based products and services is seen as one of the promising tools to reach out to the unbanked populations. Delivered mainly by NBFC-MFIs, Banks, SFBs through SHG and JLG models, microfinance has been able to reach out to a large section of people in the country/states and help substantially in expanding financial inclusion. As per MFIN Micrometer Report, the microfinance industry at pan-India level has got total loan portfolio of Rs. 3, 53,233 Cr with 7.5 Cr active unique Borrowers as on Sept'2025.

The state of Odisha has witnessed a potential growth of microfinance program in the region and projected a rich diversity of models, practices, tools and products etc. The role of MFIs in providing the financial services for poor and low-income groups of people has been quite encouraging, especially in terms of their outreach and service delivery at the door steps of members. As reported, more than eighty institutions including NBFC-MFIs work in Odisha and offer diversified financial services, mainly micro credit to Women SHG & JLG Members. Collectively they have covered all 30 districts in Odisha and reached out to about 42.36 lakhs members with gross loan portfolio of around Rs. 18,769 Cr as on Sept'2025. The loan funds provided by Development Banks including NABARD and its subsidiaries, SIDBI, Public and Private Sector Banks and Investors etc have been quite helpful for NBFC-MFIs to reach out to such a large number of members and meet their credit needs in the state. Having availed the loans from Banks, NBFC-MFIs, the SHG/JLG members utilize that for various income generating activities to enhance their household incomes. OSAFII members also undertake credit plus activities related to Water & Sanitation, Health, Education, Rural Housing, Non-Conventional Energy etc. and also Emergency Relief measures for affected people during natural calamities.

2nd FI Conclave: March' 2019



Chief Guest: Shri. Praful Samal, Hon'ble Minister-WCD and MSME, Govt of Odisha



SHG Convention- Nov'2019-



Chief Guest: Dr. Saurav Garg, IAS, Principal Secretary, Agri Dept, Govt of Odisha

3rd FI Conclave' March'2020



4th FI Conclave' Feb'2023



5th FI Conclave-2024



6th FI Conclave-2025



Key Issues & Challenges:

Reaching out to all households with inclusive financial services has, however, been a challenging task in Odisha mainly because of its geographical spread and inadequate infrastructures, especially in the rural, remote and hard to reach areas. The sector has yet to fully address the issues of scale and depth in the state. Regional skew in terms of FI coverage is experienced. Growing NPA in MFI and SHG portfolios have been quite stressful in the sector. Promoting and strengthening microenterprises among SHG/JLG Members have also not been taking place adequately as expected. Coverage of micro-insurance and pension services for poor is also not very encouraging. Funding for smaller MFIs is still an issue.

7th State Level Financial Inclusion Conclave-Odisha:

OSAFII, since its inception has been undertaking various sector and capacity building initiatives in Odisha. Organizing state level financial inclusion conclaves is one of such activities. OSAFII has already organized 06 Conclaves and 01 SHG Convention in which delegates from different parts of the state took part and deliberated on various thematic areas. OSAFII has planned to organize its 7th State Level Financial Inclusion Conclave on 6th February'2026 at Hotel VIVANTA, Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

Key Objectives & Format: The key objectives of Conclave include;

- ❖ Providing a common platform to various Stakeholders and also Women SHG/JLG Members for sharing of their experiences & getting wider exposure on FI, livelihoods promotion, digitization etc.
- ❖ Strengthening effective coordination and synergy among all stakeholders involved in expanding financial inclusion and women entrepreneurship in Odisha

The Conclave is expected to be attended by 500 Delegates including about 200 Women SHG/JLG Members. Representatives from Govt line Depts, RO-RBI, NABARD, SIDBI, SLBC, Banks, RRBs, SFBs, NBFC-MFIs, BCs, NGOs, CBOs, Cooperatives, SROs-MFIN & Sa-Dhan, Academics, Training & Research institutions etc will also take part. The conclave will look at full diversity of issues and challenges that impede and advance the financial inclusion and entrepreneurship initiatives in the state. Besides inaugural and valedictory sessions, the conclave will also have technical sessions and deliberations would focus mainly on subjects related to financial inclusion, financial literacy, women empowerment, entrepreneurship development and sustainable livelihoods etc.

OSAFII together with its Member Organizations cordially invites stakeholders to kindly attend the conclave and share their valuable inputs with the Delegates participating in the event.

Tentative Agenda of the Conclave

Time	Key Activity
9.00am-10.00am	Registration
10.00am-11.30am	Inauguration Session
11.30am- 11.45am	Network (Tea/Coffee) Break
11.45am-1.00pm	Technical Session-I
1.00pm-2.00pm	Technical Session-II
2.00 .pm-3.00pm	Network Lunch Break
3.00pm-4.00pm	OSAFII Members' Meeting & Closure

Conclave Secretariate/ OSAFII Office:

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